

A₁ attached to the platform and coupled to first plate 21 by spring 24. Spring 24 is preferably a coil spring and is compressed between the first plate and the second plate when the platform is rotated to a horizontal position. Spring 24 provides a sufficient restoring force that it can not be completely compressed by the weight of the platform. Strictly speaking, the torque of the platform about the hinge is opposed by the torque from load spring 24. Although a single spring is shown, more than one spring can be used to counter the torque from the platform. The upper end of spring 24 is attached to first plate 21 by bolt 23. The load sensor is protected from the wheels of a scooter by fence 27, which also guides the wheels of a scooter onto track 29. --

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7, as follows.

A₂ -- If a torque greater than the torque due to the platform is applied to the system, then plates 21 and 22 move toward each other, spring 24 is further compressed, and tab 45 engages adjustable stop 47. When adjustable stop 47 engages tab 45, a torque is applied to shaft 41, opposing return spring 46 and pivoting arm 32 away from engagement between pin 31 and slot 34. A weight anywhere on the platform causes further compression of spring 24 and, therefore, prevents the platform from being rotated as it is raised. In one embodiment of the invention, as little as thirty pounds on the platform was sufficient to prevent the platform from rotating as it was raised. --

In the claims:

Kindly amend claims 6 and 9 as follows.

A₃ 6 (Amended). In an external lift for a scooter wherein the lift includes a post adapted to be attached to a vehicle, a lift mechanism including a tube attached to said post and a sliding post fitting within said tube, and a rotating platform coupled to the sliding post by a hinge including a bar attached to said platform inside a horizontal tube coupled to said sliding post, the improvement comprising:

- a first plate coupled to said tube;
- a second plate coupled to said bar;
- a first spring attached to at least said first plate for separating the first plate from the second plate;